

REMARKS

This Reply is filed in response to the February 5, 2010 Office Action¹ and the April 14, 2010 Advisory Action. Claims 1-20 were presented for examination and were rejected. Claims 1, 4-7, 13 and 18-19 are amended. Claim 21 is new. No new matter is added; the amended claims and new claim 21 are supported by, and throughout, the application as filed; e.g., see at least paragraphs [0020] and [0037], and at least Figs. 9 and 10 and specification discussion thereof. Claim 20 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 7, 13, 18 and 21 are in independent form. Claims 1-19 and 21 are pending.

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being un-patentable over Lue Chee Lip et al. (U.S. 2002/0099794 A1; hereinafter “Lip”) in view of Nguyen et al. (U.S. 7,523,385; hereinafter “Nguyen”) and Official Notice.

Claims 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being un-patentable over Lip in view of Nguyen as applied to claims 1-5 and 7-11, further in view of Williams (U.S. 2004/0243435; hereinafter “Williams”).

Claims 13-17 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being un-patentable over Lip in view of Nguyen, Williams and Official Notice.

Lastly, claims 18 -20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being un-patentable over Nguyen in view of Lip, Williams and Official Notice.

These rejections are traversed because these references, taken individually or in any reasonable combination, do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in Applicants’ claims.

¹ The Office Action may contain a number of statements characterizing the cited references and/or the claims which Applicants may not expressly identify herein. Regardless of whether or not any such statement is identified herein, Applicants do not automatically subscribe to, or acquiesce in, any such statement.

Preliminarily, Applicant hereby expresses appreciation to the Examiner for the telephone conversation initiated by the Examiner with Applicant's undersigned representative. In that conversation the Examiner suggested possible amendment to the claims to more-closely align the claim language with teachings of the specification, and Applicant has made such amendments herein. For example, in claim 1, "means for sending from one of the plurality of potential visitors a registration request for each of the plurality of potential visitors based upon the received visitation request" has been amended to --means for sending a registration request to each of the plurality of potential visitors based upon the received visitation request--.

Although the Official Notice aspect of the final rejection made in the Office Action, as discussed in the Advisory Action, may be made moot by the instant amendments made herein, Applicant nevertheless respectfully maintains its previously expressed position on the Official Notice aspect of the Office Action, and does not acquiesce in the Advisory Action's discussion of Official Notice. If such Official Notice continues to be asserted, after this amendment is entered, Applicant respectfully maintains its request for an appropriate affidavit as originally requested.

Applicant traverses the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-20 for at least the following reasons. Claim 20 is canceled wherefore its rejection is moot. Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*: "means for determining via a prison interface if the inmate has visitation privileges." Independent claim 7 recites, *inter alia*: "determining, via a prison interface, if any of the incarcerated inmates have visitation privileges." Independent claim 13 recites, *inter alia*: "visitation registration program code executable on said computer only for visitation requests made via a prison interface by inmates having visitation privileges." Independent claim 18 recites, *inter alia*: "determining, via a prison interface, if the inmate has visitation privileges."

Lip relates to visitor requests to visit a company, Nguyen relates to commercial/business event planning and Williams relates to medical information management. Therefore, not only do none of these references have anything, whatsoever, to do with inmates, they also have nothing to do with determining if an inmate has visitation privileges. And, in addition, they also have nothing to do with making a visitation-privilege determination via a prison interface. Applicant submits, therefore, that Lip, Nguyen, Williams and Official Notice taken individually or in any reasonable combination do not disclose or suggest at least these limitations of independent claims 1, 7, 13 and/or 18.

New claim 21 recites, *inter alia*: “determining, via a prison interface, if said inmate has visitation privileges and, only if so, continuing with steps (b) through (g).” Applicant submits, therefore, that Lip, Nguyen, Williams and Official Notice taken individually or in any reasonable combination also do not disclose or suggest at least this limitation of new claim 21 for reasons given above with respect to the other independent claims.

Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of independent claims 1, 7, 13, 18 and 21 should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Dependent claims 2-6, dependent from claim 1 are also allowable, at least for reasons based on their respective dependencies from allowable base claim 1.

Dependent claims 8-12, dependent from claim 7 are also allowable, at least for reasons based on their respective dependencies from allowable base claim 7.

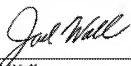
Dependent claims 14-17, dependent from claim 13 are also allowable, at least for reasons based on their respective dependencies from allowable base claim 13.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks.² Applicant submits that all rejections have been addressed and have been overcome.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 07-2347 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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² As Applicants' remarks with respect to the Examiner's rejections are sufficient to overcome these rejections, Applicants' silence as to assertions by the Examiner in the Office Action or certain requirements that may be applicable to such rejections (e.g., whether a reference constitutes prior art, motivation to combine references, assertions as to dependent claims, etc.) is not a concession by Applicants that such assertions are accurate or such requirements have been met, and Applicants reserve the right to analyze and dispute such assertions/requirements in the future.